

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)      A flexible material comprising:

interwoven fibers;

means for passing a current and generating localized heating interspersed among the fibers;

at least one microcapsule, situated on or within the interwoven fibers ~~and means for passing a current, containing a~~ for retaining and/or releasing at least one substance and releasing said substance upon rupture due to the localized heating generated by selectively heating the means for passing a current; and

means for controlling ~~the current passed through the means for passing a current to enable controlled localized heating so as to controllably release at least one substance from at least one microcapsule.~~

2. (currently amended)      The flexible material of Claim 1, wherein ~~the means for passing a current and generating localized heating further comprises~~ includes conductive fibers.

3. (currently amended)      The flexible material of Claim 1, wherein ~~the means for passing a current and generating localized heating further comprises~~ includes conductive ink.

4. (currently amended)      The flexible material of Claim 1, wherein ~~the at least one microcapsule further comprises~~ includes a thermo-plastic polymer.

5. (currently amended)      The flexible material of Claim 4, wherein the thermo-plastic polymer forms the at least one microcapsule ~~containing the substance to be released.~~

6. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 1, wherein the at least one microcapsule releases ~~the at least one~~ substance upon reaching ~~its melting point a predetermined~~ temperature.

7. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 6, wherein ~~the at least one~~ substance has a lower vapor point than ~~the~~ a melting point of ~~the at least one~~ microcapsule retaining such substance.

8. (original) The flexible material of Claim 1, wherein the substance consists of at least one of oil, liquid, and solid material.

9. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 1, wherein the substance generates a scent ~~upon release once released into the ambient environment~~.

10. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 1, wherein ~~the means for~~ controlling the current ~~further comprises~~ includes a power source, and a current path selector.

11. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 10, wherein ~~the means for~~ controlling the current ~~further comprises~~ includes at least one programmable sensor ~~which determines for determining~~ when to activate and/or deactivate ~~the means for passing a current~~.

12. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 11, wherein ~~the at least one~~ programmable sensor senses when a ~~predetermined~~ certain number of microcapsules have ruptured.

13. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 10, wherein ~~the means for~~ controlling the current ~~further comprises~~ includes a timer.

14. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 13, wherein the timer cooperates with ~~determines when to deactivate the means for passing a current so as to effectuate the deactivation of said means~~ based upon at least one of the melting point of ~~the at least one~~

microcapsule, the number of ruptured microcapsules, and the material properties of ~~the~~ at least one substance ~~contained~~ retained by ~~in the~~ at least one microcapsule.

15. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 1 further comprising ~~multiple at least two portions of~~ microcapsules wherein ~~at least a first one~~ portion of ~~the~~ microcapsules ~~contain~~ retain at least one a first substance and ~~at least a second one~~ other portion of ~~the~~ microcapsules ~~contain~~ retain at least one a second substance.

16. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ at least one first substance and ~~the~~ at least one second other substance have different material properties.

17. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 16, wherein the different material properties ~~consist~~ include of at least one of scent, melting-point, viscosity, physical state, color, flavor, chemical composition, and texture.

18. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ at least one first portion of microcapsules ~~containing the first substance~~ are grouped on or within ~~an~~ a defined area of the flexible material, ~~the defined area being cooperatively associated with such that the means for controlling the current locally heats so that the defined area may be locally heated and enables the release of the first and at least one substance released thereby.~~

19. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ means for controlling the current allows local heating of ~~either the first or the second~~ at least one portion of microcapsules ~~and so as to controllably enables the release of the~~ at least one first or second substance.

20. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ means for controlling the current allows local heating of ~~both the first and the second portion~~ two or more

portions of microcapsules and so as to controllably enables the release of a portion of the first and second two or more substances.

21. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 15, wherein ~~the first at least one~~ portion of microcapsules has a ~~different melting point than the~~ that differs from at least one other ~~second~~ portion of microcapsules.

22. (currently amended) The flexible material of Claim 21, wherein ~~the means for~~ controlling the current ~~further comprises~~ includes means for locally heating ~~the first and second~~ portion simultaneously at least two portions of microcapsules such that only the first so that only one portion of microcapsules rupture ~~and release the substance they contain.~~

23. (currently amended) A flexible material comprising:

- interwoven fibers;
- means for passing a current and generating localized heating interspersed among the fibers;
- at least one substance, situated on or within the fibers and means for passing a current, that vaporizes due to the localized heating ~~generated by selectively heating the means for passing a current; and~~
- means for controlling ~~the current passed through the means for generating~~ localized heating so as to controllably vaporize at least one substance.

24. (currently amended) A method of controllably releasing ~~at least one~~ substance ~~contained~~ retained in a flexible material comprising:

integrating fibers and means for passing a current and generating localized heating interspersed among the fibers, the means for passing a current and generating localized heating being operatively associated with control means;

forming at least one microcapsule ~~containing~~ retaining at least one substance;

incorporating ~~the~~ at least one microcapsule above or within the integrated fibers and means for passing a current;

selectively heating the at least one microcapsule via control means;

rupturing the at least one microcapsule via the selective heating; and

controllably releasing said at least one substance via the rupturing.

25. (currently amended) A method of controllably releasing at least one substance contained/retained in a flexible material comprising:

integrating fibers and means for passing a current and generating localized heating interspersed among the fibers, the means for passing a current and generating localized heating being operatively associated with control means;

forming a substance above or within the interwoven fibers and means for passing a current;

selectively heating ~~the~~ at least one substance via control means; and

controllably evaporating said at least one substance via the selective heating.